



[Billing Code 3410-20]

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

August 22, 2012

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C.; [OIRA\\_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV](mailto:OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV) or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, D.C. 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of publication of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**National Agricultural Statistics Service**

*TITLE:* Agricultural Resource Management, Chemical Use, and Post-harvest Chemical Use Surveys

*OMB CONTROL NUMBER:* 0535-0218

*SUMMARY OF COLLECTION:* The primary objectives of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) are to provide the public with timely and reliable agricultural production and economic statistics, as well as environmental and specialty agricultural related statistics. Three surveys – the Agricultural Resource Management Study, the Fruit and Vegetable Chemical Use Surveys, and the Post-harvest Chemical Use Survey – are critical to NASS’ ability to fulfill these objectives and to build the congressionally mandated database on agricultural chemical use and related farm practices. NASS uses a variety of survey instruments to collect the information in conjunction with these studies.

*NEED AND USE OF THE INFORMATION:* The Agricultural Resource Management Study provides a robust data base of information to address varied needs of policy makers. There are many uses for the information from this study including an evaluation of the safety of the Nation’s food supply; input to the farm sector portion of the gross domestic product; and to provide a barometer on the financial condition of farm businesses. Data from the Fruit and Vegetable Chemical Use Surveys is used to assess the environmental and economic implications of various program and policies and the impact on agricultural producers and consumers. The results of the Post-harvest Chemical Use Survey are used by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop Food Quality Protection Act risk assessments. Other organizations use this data to make sound regulatory decisions.

*DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:* Farms

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*NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS:* 120,633

*FREQUENCY OF RESPONSES:* Reporting: Annually

*TOTAL BURDEN HOURS:* 70,840

**National Agricultural Statistics Service**

*TITLE:* Egg, Chicken, and Turkey Surveys

*OMB CONTROL NUMBER:* 0535-0004

*SUMMARY OF COLLECTION:* The primary function of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is to prepare and issue current official State and national estimates of crop and livestock production. Thousands of farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses and others voluntarily respond to nationwide surveys about crops, livestock, prices, and other agricultural activities. Estimates of egg, chicken, and turkey production are in an integral part of this program. General authority for these data collection activities is granted under U.S. Code Title 7, Section 2204. This statute specifies the “The Secretary of Agriculture shall procure and preserve all information concerning agriculture which she can obtain ... by the collection of statistics ... and shall distribute them among agriculturists”. Information published from the surveys in this docket is needed by USDA economists and government policy makers to ensure the orderly marketing of broilers, turkeys and eggs.

*NEED AND USE OF THE INFORMATION:* Statistics on these poultry products contribute to a comprehensive program of keeping the government and poultry industry abreast of anticipated changes. All of the poultry reports are used by producers, processors, feed dealers, and others in the marketing and supply channels as a basis for their production and marketing decisions.

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*DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:* Farms; Business or other for profit

*NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS:* 2,855

*FREQUENCY OF RESPONSES:* Reporting: Weekly; Monthly; Annually

*TOTAL BURDEN HOURS:* 3,675

**National Agricultural Statistics Service**

*TITLE:* Floriculture Survey

*OMB CONTROL NUMBER:* 0535-0093

*SUMMARY OF COLLECTION:* The primary function of the National Agricultural Statistics (NASS) is to prepare current official state and national estimates of crop and livestock production. Since 1985 Congress has provided funds to conduct an annual Commercial Floriculture Survey which obtains data on this important and growing industry. General authority for these data collection activities is granted under U.S. Code Title 7, Section 2204. This statute specifies that “The Secretary of Agriculture shall procure and preserve all information concerning agriculture which can be obtain by the collection of statistics...and shall distribute them among agriculturists”. The floriculture industry accounted for more than \$8.6 billion in agricultural cash receipts at the U.S. level.

*NEED AND USE OF THE INFORMATION:* NASS will collect information to assess alternative agriculture opportunities. Data from the survey will provide statistics for Federal and State agencies to monitor the use of agricultural chemicals. If the information is not collected data users could not keep abreast of changes.

*DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:* Farms; Business or other-for-profit

*NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS:* 9,000

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*FREQUENCY OF RESPONSES:* Reporting: Annually

*TOTAL BURDEN HOURS:* 4,464

**National Agricultural Statistics Service**

*TITLE:* Mink Survey

*OMB CONTROL NUMBER:* 0535-0212

*SUMMARY OF COLLECTION:* The primary function of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is to prepare and issue current official State and national estimates of crop and livestock production. Statistics on mink production are published for the 15 major states that account for 95 percent of the U.S. production. There is no other source for this type of information. General authority for these data collection activities is granted under U.S. Code Title 7, Section 2204.

*NEED AND USE OF THE INFORMATION:* NASS collects information on mink pelts produced by color, number of females bred to produce kits the following year, number of mink farms, average marketing price, and the value of pelts produced. The data is disseminated by NASS in the Mink Report and is used by the U.S. government and other groups.

*DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:* Farms

*NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS:* 350

*FREQUENCY OF RESPONSES:* Reporting: Annually

*TOTAL BURDEN HOURS:* 89

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